



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

December 12, 2008

Reply To: EPTA-088

08-058-FHW

Mr. Paul Ziman
Federal Highway Administration
Idaho Division
3050 North Lakeharbor Lane, Suite 126
Boise, Idaho 83706

Mr. Michael Hartz
Idaho Transportation Department
600 West Prairie Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815-8764

Dear Mr. Ziman and Mr. Hartz:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the **I-90 Post Falls Access Improvements Project**, Kootenai County, Idaho Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We are responding in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to offer comment at this time.

The proposed project pertains to a segment of the Interstate 90 (I-90) corridor from the Spokane Street interchange through the State Highway 41 (SH 41) interchange, approximately 3 miles long. The action alternatives are intended to enhance access and cross-freeway mobility, improve the level of service of traffic operations within the corridor, and provide safe and efficient movement of people, goods, and services, while giving full consideration to local roads as primary transportation corridors. There are four alternatives -- the No Build, Alternative 2, Alternative 5, and Alternative 7. Each action alternative offers a different configuration of interchange designs and I-90 cross overs at specific locations: Spokane Street, Seltice Way, Greensferry Road, and SH-41. According to the DEIS, the main project impacts pertain to land use, economics, noise, and cultural resources.

EPA has no substantial concerns regarding this project. We do have two recommendations to offer:

- Air quality impacts during construction: We recommend that project proponents consider the enclosed list of air quality construction mitigation measures to augment efforts on page 3.6 (Air Quality) to decrease exposure of sensitive receptors to mobile

source air toxics (MSATs). Many of these mitigation measures are inexpensive and easy to implement.

- Vegetation surveys: Because the field surveys were conducted during January, August, and November of 2005, it is possible that plants of interest could have been missed. We recommend conducting periodic field surveys throughout the spring and early to mid summer as well.

Thank you for your efforts to conduct a thorough analysis of the project area. We are rating the DEIS as LO, Lack of Objections. An explanation of this rating is enclosed. If you have questions or would like to discuss our response, please contact Elaine Somers of my staff at (206)553-2966, or me at (206)553-1601. Thank you for involving us in the I-90 Post Falls project.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit

Enclosures